

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the claims, please cancel claims 6 and 15 and amend claims 5, 7, 8, 12-14 and 16-17 as follows.

- 1-4. (canceled)
5. (currently amended) A process for delivering a ~~biologically active compound~~ polynucleotide to the cytoplasm of a cell comprising:
- a) forming a ~~membrane active~~ styrene-maleic anhydride-based random copolymer;
 - b) covalently linking hydrophobic groups to anhydride monomers in the copolymer thereby forming a membrane active polymer capable of lysing mammalian cell membranes at pH 6.5; and,
 - [[b]] c) contacting said cell with said ~~biologically active compound~~ polynucleotide and ~~the styrene-maleic anhydride-based random copolymers~~ said membrane active polymer such that the compound and the polymer are endocytosed by the cell.
6. (canceled)
7. (currently amended) The ~~polymer process~~ of claim [[6]] 1 wherein the hydrophobic groups are selected from the list consisting of: hydrophobic esters and hydrophobic amides.
8. (currently amended) The ~~polymer process~~ of claim 7 wherein a functional group is covalently linked to an anhydride monomer in the polymer.
- 9-11. (canceled)
12. (previously presented) A process for delivering a ~~biologically active compound~~ polynucleotide to the cytoplasm of a cell comprising:
- a) forming a ~~membrane active~~ vinyl ether-maleic anhydride-based alternating copolymer;
 - b) covalently linking hydrophobic groups to anhydride monomers in the copolymer thereby forming a membrane active polymer capable of lysing mammalian cell membranes at pH 6.5; and,
 - [[b]] c) contacting said cell with said ~~biologically active compound~~ polynucleotide and ~~the vinyl ether-maleic anhydride-based alternating copolymer~~ said membrane active polymer such that the compound and the polymer are endocytosed by the cell.

13. (currently amended) The ~~polymer~~ process of claim 12 wherein the vinyl ether is selected from the group comprising alkyl vinyl ether and aryl vinyl ether.
14. (currently amended) The ~~polymer~~ process of claim 13 wherein the alkyl vinyl ether is selected from the group consisting of: propyl vinyl ether and butyl vinyl ether.
15. (canceled)
16. (currently amended) The ~~polymer~~ process of claim [[15]] 12 wherein the hydrophobic groups are selected from the group consisting of: hydrophobic esters and hydrophobic amides.
17. (currently amended) The ~~polymer~~ process of claim 12 wherein a functional group is covalently linked to an anhydride monomer in the polymer.
- 18-20. (canceled)